

REMARKS

Applicants elect, with traverse, Group II drawn to a process for preparing a hydrogenated alcohol. Group II includes claims 12, 14-16, 18, 20-22, 24, 26, 28 and 30.

This restriction is made with traverse for the following reasons.

The two sets of claims are related as a combination and subcombination of process steps. Annex B of the PCT Administrative Instructions, subsection (C)(c)(i) states that "no problem arises in the case of a combination/subcombination situation where the subcombination claim of which the prior art and the combination claim includes all of the features of the subcombination."

The examiner's comments regarding the fact that the hydrogenated alcohols of Group II can be prepared without using the process of Group I are incorrect. The claims of Group II require the very same steps as the subcombination claims of Group I except that there is a hydrogenation step (II') in between steps (II) and (III). Thus, the claims of Groups I and II do relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rules 13.1 and 13.2.

Favorable consideration of this traversal is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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